

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage Field Office

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) FORM

CX No.: AK-040-CX00-015

*Lease/Serial/Case File No.: AA-082251 (2920)

*

Proposed Action Title/Types: Land Use Permit to place stationary tower on public lands.

Location of Proposed Action: Section 28, T. 22 N., R. 60 W., Seward Meridian, Alaska

Description of Proposed Action:

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game requested a land use permit to place a stationary tower on public lands. The stationary tower will require an area approximately 10 feet in diameter and will be 20 feet high. The tower will be anchored with large rocks. While the structure is not permanent, it will remain on site for the duration of the study. Electronic equipment will be removed at the end of each season. The site will be accessed by helicopter which may require clearing of vegetation within a 25 foot radius of the site.

The stationary tower will be one of several placed adjacent to the Yukon River. It will be used in a chinook salmon radio telemetry study. The study is a cooperative effort with the National Marine Fishery Service. The Bureau of Land Management is contributing several additional tracking stations to this effort. The purpose of this study is to identify stock composition, timing and movement patterns of chinook salmon returning to the drainage.

This year between June 1 and July 15, 60 chinook salmon will be captured and radio tagged in an attempt to determine the feasibility of a full scale study. If successful the full scale study will be implemented in 2001 and 2002.

Applicant (if any): Alaska Department of Fish and Game

PART I - PLAN CONFORMANCE REVIEW

This Proposed Action is subject to the following land use plan: Southwest MFP

Date Plan Approved: November 25, 1981

The Proposed Action has been reviewed for conformance with this plan (43 CFR 1610.5, BLM MS 1617.3).

Remarks:

PART II - NEPA REVIEW

A. Categorical Exclusion Review.

This Proposed Action qualifies as a categorical exclusion under 516 DM 2, Appendix 1.____ (insert CX number) or 516 DM 6, Appendix 5.4.(19).

B. Departmental Exceptions Review.

The following Departmental List of Exceptions apply to individual actions. Departmental instructions mandate that environmental documents MUST BE PREPARED for actions which may: (Mark applicable answer for each item. If "yes", prepare an EA/EIS and append this form to it.)

- | | | YES | NO |
|----|--|-----|----------|
| 1. | Have significant adverse impacts on public health or safety. | ___ | <u>X</u> |
| 2. | Have adverse effects on unique geographic characteristics, historic or cultural resources, park, recreation or refuge lands, wilderness areas, wild or scenic rivers, sole or principal drinking water aquifers, prime farmlands, wetlands, floodplains, or ecologically significant or critical areas, including those listed on the Department's National Register of Natural Landmarks. | ___ | <u>X</u> |

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) FORM (Cont'd.)

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		YES	NO
3.	Have highly controversial environmental effects.	___	<u>X</u>
4.	Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.	___	<u>X</u>
5.	Establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects.	___	<u>X</u>
6.	Be directly related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant environmental effects.	___	<u>X</u>
7.	Have adverse effects on properties listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.	___	<u>X</u>
8.	Have adverse effects on species listed or proposed to be listed on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have adverse effects on designated critical habitat for these species.	___	<u>X</u>
9.	Require compliance with Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Protection of Wetlands), or the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.	___	<u>X</u>
10.	Threaten to violate a Federal, State, local or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.	___	<u>X</u>

I certify that none of the Departmental exceptions listed in the above Part B (516 DM 2, Appendix 2) apply to this action.

Remarks:

Preparer(s):	*Date:
/s/ Karen Collie)	* (06-01-00)
	*

PART III - DECISION

I have reviewed this plan conformance and NEPA compliance record and have determined that the proposed project is in conformance with the approved land use plan and that no further environmental analysis is required. It is my decision to implement the project, as described, with the mitigation measures either identified below or stipulation(s) attached in this case file.

Mitigation Measures/Other Remarks: To minimize disturbance to potential peregrine nesting areas, helicopter access should be made with a flight path inland and perpendicular to the river.

Remarks:

Authorized Official	*Date
/s/ Peter J. Ditton, Acting	* (06-05-00)
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